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The QUESTION
BATWOMAN in
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KATE! PAST!
YOU MEAN PASS!
THAT'S WHAT I SAID!
YOU DID NOT, BETH! YOU SAID PAST...
...AS IN "IT'S PAST TIME FOR US TO GET HOME."

GREG RUCKA
WRITER

J.H. WILLIAMS III
ARTIST/COVER

DAVE STEWART
COLORS

TODD KLEIN
LETTERS

HARVEY RICHARDS
ASST. EDITOR

MICHAEL SIGLAIN
EDITOR

ADAM HUGHES
VARIANT COVER

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

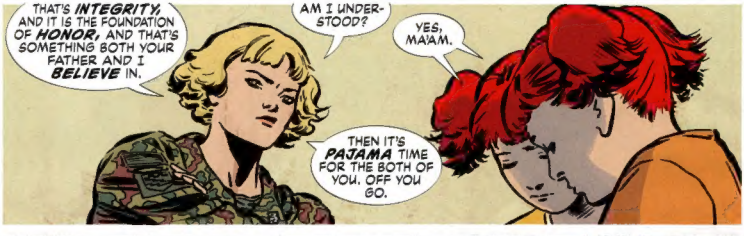
SO THAT'S WHY KATE'S BEEN PRETENDING TO BE YOU FOR MR. DOUGHERTY'S CLASS, BETH?
NOT MY FAULT HE CAN'T TELL US APART.
OR MINE.
THICK AS THIEVES, YOU TWO, AND AS BAD AS A PAIR OF THEM.
EXCEPT YOU FORGET, I'M YOUR MOTHER AND I KNOW ALL OF YOUR TRICKS.

IT STOPS NOW, AND TOMORROW, YOU BOTH WILL TELL MR. DOUGHERTY WHAT YOU DID, AND APOLOGIZE FOR IT.
MOM! WE'RE GONNA GET IN--
--SO MUCH TROUBLE, HE'S GONNA BE--
--SO MAD!
YES, HE IS.

PLEASE DON'T MAKE US TELL HIM!
WE WON'T DO IT AGAIN, MOM! WE SWEAR WE WON'T!
I KNOW YOU WON'T.

IT'S ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU. IT'S ABOUT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS.
AND WHEN YOU ACT WRONGLY, YOU HAVE TO ANSWER FOR IT. WITHOUT HIDING, WITHOUT COMPLAINT.

BUT THIS IS NO LONGER ABOUT MR. DOUGHERTY.


THAT'S INTEGRITY, AND IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF HONOR, AND THAT'S SOMETHING BOTH YOUR FATHER AND I BELIEVE IN.
AM I UNDERSTOOD?
YES, MA'AM.
THEN IT'S PAJAMA TIME FOR THE BOTH OF YOU. OFF YOU GO.

KATE?
...I WAS JUST WONDERING WHEN DAD WAS COMING HOME.

SOON, BABY.
I MISS HIM, TOO.

ROMEO-BRAVO-TWO-ZERO, CLOUDBREAKER--WE ARE TAKING HEAVY FIRE; REPEAT, HEAVY FIRE--
CLOUDBREAKER, ROMEO-BRAVO-TWO-ZERO, UNDERSTOOD. UAV TRACKING A LARGE ENEMY FORCE ADVANCING ON YOUR POSITION.
RECOMMEND YOU ABORT MISSION, EVAC TO BRAVO TEAM LZ.
IS THAT AN ORDER?
NEGATIVE, CLOUDBREAKER.
DAMN STRAIGHT.
LITTLE BIRD EN ROUTE TO LZ, TWO MINUTES.
THEY PULLING THE PLUG?
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.
GONNA NEED SOME PEACE AND QUIET, BUDDY.
PEACE I CAN GIVE YOU--
QUIET'S ANOTHER THING ENTIRELY.
ROMEO-BRAVO-TWO-ZERO, CLOUDBREAKER...
...I HAVE EYES ON TARGET, GREEN, GREEN, GREEN.
CLOUDBREAKER, ROMEO-BRAVO-TWO-ZERO. WE SHOW GREEN ON TARGET. LAUNCH CONFIRMED. 30 SECONDS TO IMPACT.
YOU AND SKYLIGHT MIGHT WANT TO GET OUT OF THERE.
WILCO...
...IN ABOUT THIRTY SECONDS...

REACH for the STARS
KATE.
BLONDIE
KATE, WAKE UP.
WHH?
SHHH! LISTEN!
DAD!

...AND THE GIRLS MISSED YOU, OF COURSE.
OF COURSE. BUT NOT YOU?
NOT AT ALL. YOU KNOW ME, TOUGH AS NAILS--
--LIEUTENANT KANE, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
IT'S NOTHING, GABI...
...I'VE GIVEN MYSELF WORSE SHAVING.
YOU'RE SURE YOU DIDN'T MISS ME?
MAYBE A LITTLE.
OKAY, MAYBE A LOT.

LARRY QUINONES LIKES YOU.
HOW DO YOU KNOW HE DOESN'T LIKE YOU?
CUZ HE TOLD ME.

HE TOLD YOU HE LIKES ME?
NOT EXACTLY.

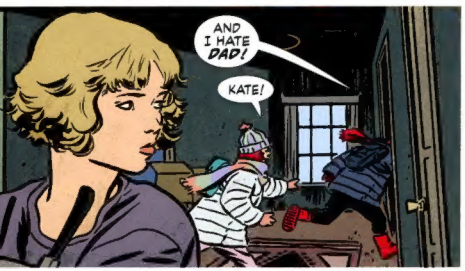
HE TOLD ME HE LIKES ME, BUT HE THOUGHT I WAS YOU WHEN HE SAID IT...
...KATE WHAT'S WRONG?

KATE, I'M SORRY, IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE, HE JUST RAN UP AND BLURTED IT--
DAD GOT THE PROMOTION.

WE MOVE
YOU MOVE!

BE CAREFUL WITH THAT ONE, THAT'S THE CHINA--
--GIRLS, HOW WAS SCHOOL? WE NEED TO TALK--
I HATE YOU!

I DON'T WANT TO MOVE TO NATO.
BRUSSELS.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN! YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHAT I MEAN, BETH!


AND I HATE DAD!
KATE!

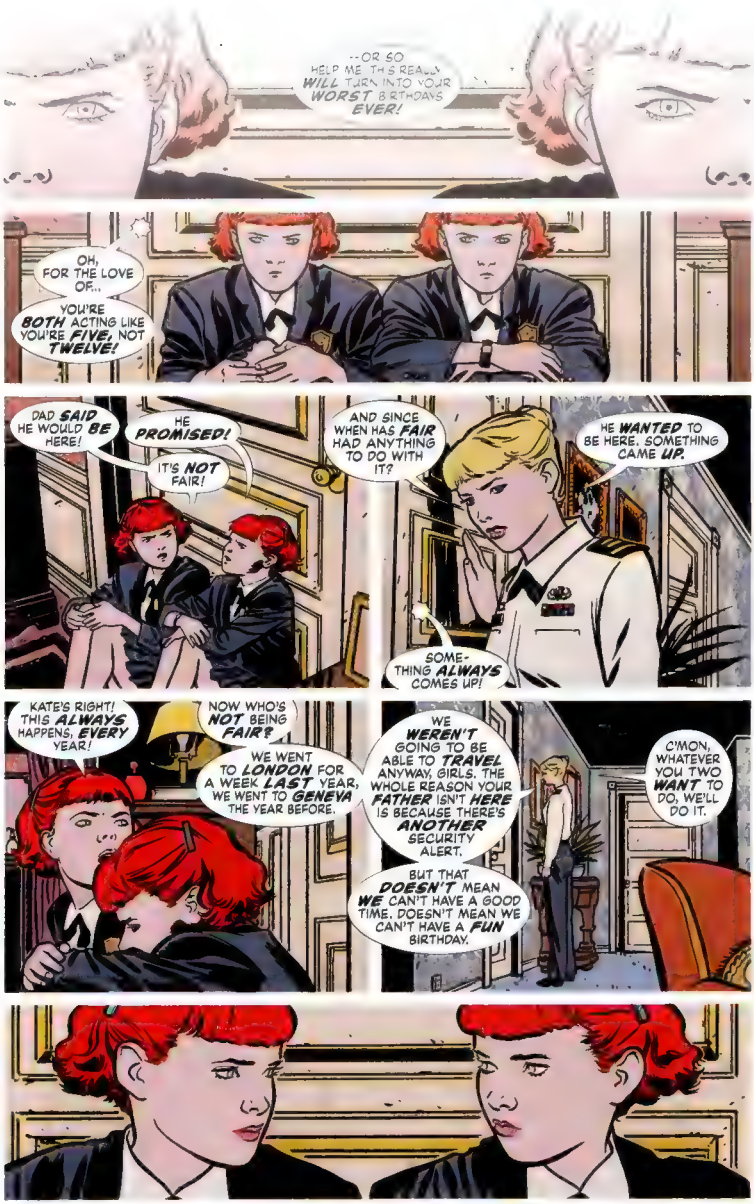
I DON'T WANT TO MOVE AGAIN! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN BELGIUM!
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE!
BUT YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE LARRY QUINONES.
IT'S NOT FUNNY! ALL OUR FRIENDS ARE HERE!

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE.
WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER, KATE. WE'LL STILL BE TOGETHER.

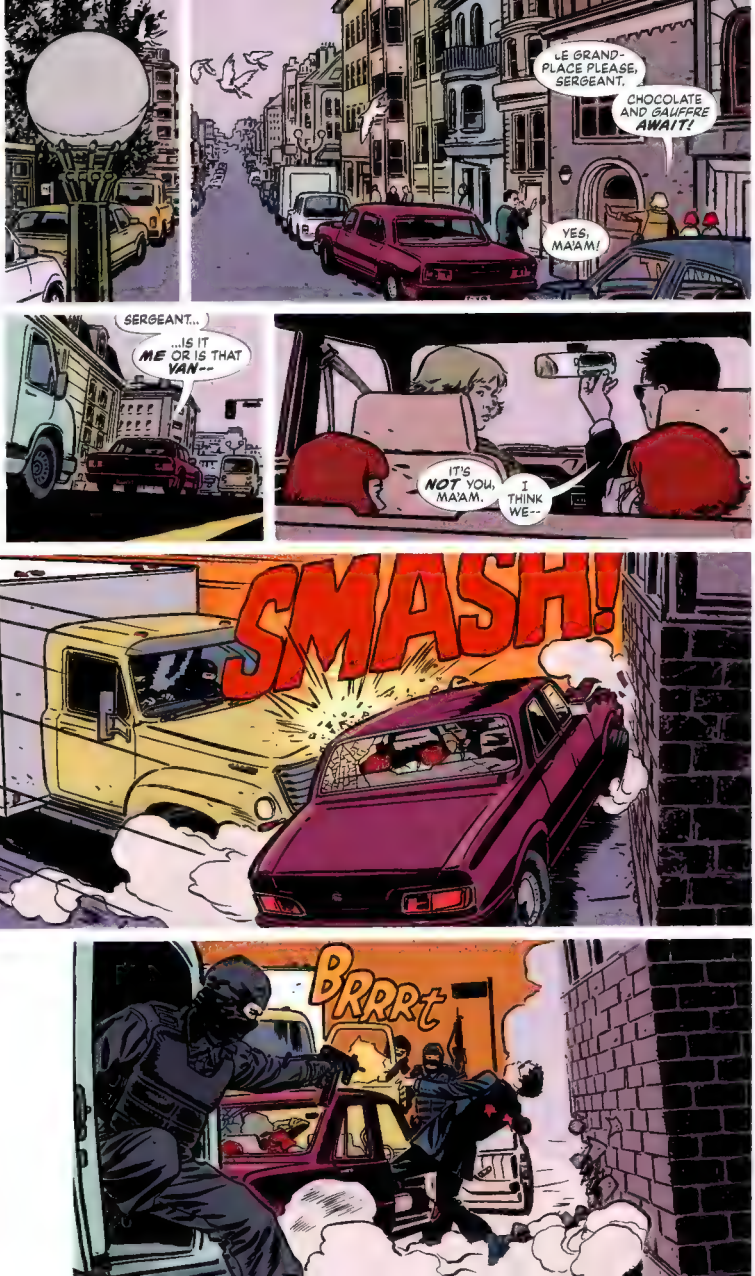
WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER...

--TWO HOURS, &TILL NO SIGN OF A BODY.
...MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN THE CURRENT...
...DUNNO, MAYBE SEND ANOTHER TEAM DOWN-RIVER--
...STILL NO IDEA WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED...
SOME ARMY THING, WHAT I HEARD...
--MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE MEDIA STAMPEDE STARTS...
CAPTAIN SAWYER? COMMISSIONER? THE PEOPLE FROM FORT RICHARDS ARE HERE.
COMMISSIONER GORDON? MAJOR GENERAL FRANCES LOMBARDO, BASE COMMANDER FOR FORT RICHARDS.
ALLOW ME TO INTRO-DUCE COLONEL KANE.
I KNOW WHO YOU GENTLEMEN ARE. WHAT I DON'T KNOW IS WHAT HAPPENED HERE TONIGHT.
I'M SORRY...
...DID YOU SAY KANE?
COMMISSIONER, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU AND YOUR PERSONNEL TO CLEAR THE AREA.
THERE'S A CHEMICAL THREAT HERE, AND WE'VE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO TAKE CONTROL.
YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, GENERAL, BUT I'M NOT SURRENDERING ANYTHING ON YOUR SAY-SO...
...MY DEPART-MENT WAS ALERTED TO A CBW THREAT, WE'VE GOT A REPORT OF A BODY IN THE WATER--
COMMISSIONER, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. IF YOU LIKE, I CAN WAKE THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR YOU, BUT I DOUBT IT'LL MAKE EITHER OF YOU HAPPY...
DID YOU FIND A BODY?
NOT A THING. DOESN'T MEAN MUCH, THAT WATER'S LIKE SOUP.
GCPD

..KATE? YOU HOME?
...SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG, I HAD TO CHECK IN WITH YOUR STEP-MOTHER...
...BETTE'S WITH HER, SAID YOU LEFT THE PARTY IN A BIG HURRY. I TRIED TO COVER FOR US BOTH...
...KATE, I KNOW YOU'RE HERE...I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET...
OPEN THE DOOR, WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT...
DAMMIT, KATE, I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
OPEN THE DOOR!
KATHERINE REBECCA KANE! YOU OPEN THIS DOOR RIGHT NOW--

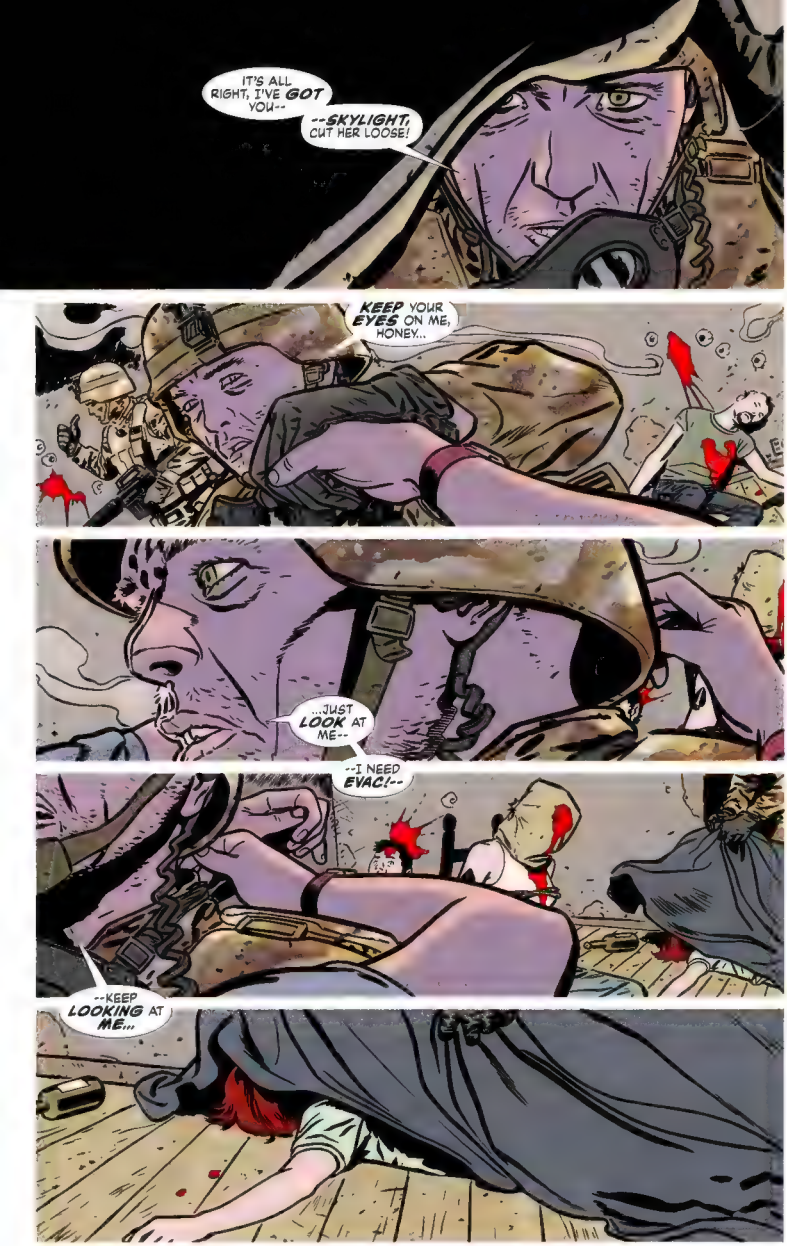

--OR SO HELP ME, THIS REALLY WILL TURN INTO YOUR WORST BIRTHDAYS EVER!
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF...
YOU'RE BOTH ACTING LIKE YOU'RE FIVE, NOT TWELVE!
DAD SAID HE WOULD BE HERE!
HE PROMISED!
IT'S NOT FAIR!
AND SINCE WHEN HAS FAIR HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT?
HE WANTED TO BE HERE. SOMETHING CAME UP.
SOMETHING ALWAYS COMES UP!
KATE'S RIGHT! THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS, EVERY YEAR!
NOW WHO'S NOT BEING FAIR?
WE WENT TO LONDON FOR A WEEK LAST YEAR, WE WENT TO GENEVA THE YEAR BEFORE.
WE WEREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO TRAVEL ANYWAY, GIRLS. THE WHOLE REASON YOUR FATHER ISN'T HERE IS BECAUSE THERE'S ANOTHER SECURITY ALERT.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T HAVE A GOOD TIME. DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T HAVE A FUN BIRTHDAY.
C'MON, WHATEVER YOU TWO WANT TO DO, WE'LL DO IT.

WE WANT TO GO TO THE GRAND-PLACE--
--TO GET CHOCOLATE--
--AND WAFFLES.
CHOCOLATE AND WAFFLES?
TWIST MY ARM, WHY DON'T YOU.
GET CHANGED OUT OF YOUR SCHOOL CLOTHES.
I'LL TELL SERGEANT CAROL WE'RE GOING OUT.


LE GRAND-PLACE PLEASE, SERGEANT.
CHOCOLATE AND GAUFFRE AWAIT!
YES, MA'AM!
SERGEANT...
...IS IT ME OR IS THAT VAN--
IT'S NOT YOU, MA'AM.
I THINK WE--
SMASH!
BRRRT

KRK
MOM!
AHHH!
BETH!
LEAVE HER ALONE LEAVE--
LET ME GO! MOM!
--MY SISTER ALONE--
KATE!
--LEAVE US ALONE! BETH!
PLEASE STOP PLEASE--
--PLEASE

skrrrk
snff!
..BETH...?
PLEASE...
..IS SOMEONE THERE...?
...ANYONE
ANYONE PLEASE--
CRNNK
--STAY AWAY FROM HER STAY AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER--
---GHNNN.
MOM?
MOMMY!
HUNNRR GHNN YOU BASTARDS YOU--
KATE!
BETH! BE--
KRAK
whNp
...?NNF?... BETH...
MOMMY?
...PLEASE.. SOMEBODY
t-tnk--
KRRAKK!!
Shik pok
thup thup thup thup thu
KRAKKRAKKRA
thup thup
skrch
TANGO DOWN!
TANGO DOWN!
CLEAR!
CLEAR!
X-RAY SECURE! CLOUD-BREAKER, IT'S ONE OF YOUR GIRLS!


IT'S ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT YOU--
--SKYLIGHT, CUT HER LOOSE!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON ME, HONEY..
...JUST LOOK AT ME--
--I NEED EVAC!--
--KEEP LOOKING AT ME...

TO BE CONTINUED...

WRITER DENNIS CUCKA • ARTIST CULLY HAMNER
COLORIST DAVE McCAIG • LETTERER JARED K. FLETCHER
ASST. EDITOR HARVEY RICHARDS • EDITOR

The QUESTION: PIPELINE

CHAPTER ONE
PART FIVE

DAMN IT!
OPEN THE GATE!
BLAM
BLAM
PTING
BLAM
BLAM
FORGET IT. FORGET IT.
YOU GUYS ARE THE WORST SHOTS EVER.

LONG BEACH...
INDIGO STAR
TRIESTE
LOUD AND CLEAR.
MAKE THE CALL.
AS YOU SAY...
TOT? YOU WITH ME?
...THOUGH IT OCCURS TO ME THAT IF THIS IS THE WRONG SHIP, THERE'LL BE HELL TO PAY...
--DUBLE THE PATROLS. APPARENTLY THEY'RE EXPECTING TROUBLE TONIGHT.
EVERYTHING'S LOADED. WHY DON'T WE JUST CAST OFF?
BECAUSE WE NEED A PILOT TO GET US OUT OF THE HARBOR, YOU JACKASS--
--YOU HEAR THAT?

KRUNCH
KRUNCH
IT'S THE RIGHT SHIP.
SO I GATHER.
THE INDIGO STAR IS A 4500 TEU CONTAINER SHIP, BUILT BY NEPTUNE MARITIME.
THE SHIP IS OWNED BY LAVAAND INDUSTRIES, REGISTERED OUT OF TRIESTE.

WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE MANIFEST I STOLE FROM CHANDLESS, IS WHERE IT'S HEADED NEXT.
THAT WOULD REQUIRE ROUTING THROU}SKSHSS{AMM CANAL. THEN ACROSS THE ATLANTIC TO THE MED.
}SHSK{CH TOO LONG A VOYAGE TO KEEP ANY PRISONERS }SHHSKKK{UAL CONTAINERS ON DECK.
SO THE WOMEN ARE BEING HELD INSIDE.
}SHHSSK{AFE ASSUMPTION.
TOT, BE ADVISED, YOU'RE COMING IN BROKEN AND STUPID.
}SKSHH{EPEAT? }SHHSKKK{ATIC IN }SKSHHSSS{
}SIGH{
}UNHHH{
KRUNCH

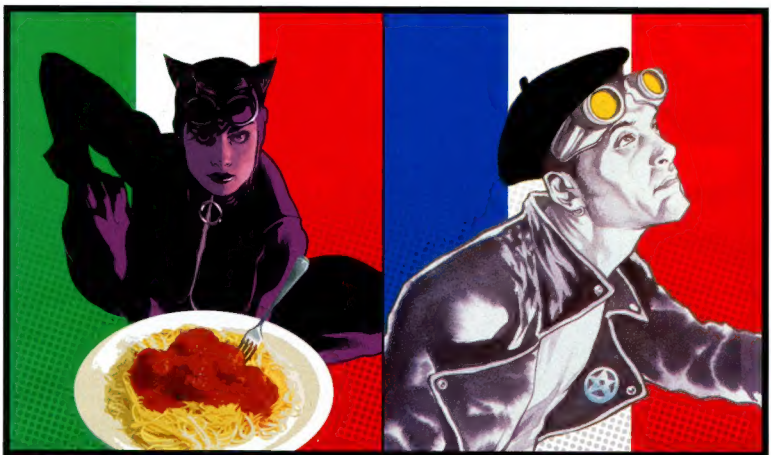
DON'T BE AFRAID...
...I'M GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
<DON'T BE AFRAID.>
NAH, SEE. I DON'T THINK SO...
CHK

WE WERE *WARNED* SOMEONE MIGHTA COME AND *TRY* THIS.
YOU'RE *NOT* A VERY *SMART* GIRL, YOU THINK YOU COULD DO *THIS* THING ALL--
ATTENTION INDIGO STAR--
--ALONE
THIS IS THE FBI--

--YOU ARE SURROUNDED!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND PREPARE TO BE BOARDED!
POLICE
WHO SAID I'M ALONE?

"...SUSPECT THE INTERFERENCE WAS THE RESULT OF YOUR ENTERING THE SHIP...
"...ALL THAT METAL MUST'VE DISRUPTED THE SIGNAL."
NO HARM DONE, TOT.
I'LL CALL YOU BACK IN A BIT...
...HECTOR SOLIZ JUST ARRIVED.

(I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN!)
(I WAS SO SCARED, HECTOR, I THOUGHT--)
(I KNOW, I KNOW...)
(...I WAS SURE I'D LOST YOU, I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.)
(BUT THE WOMAN, THE ONE WITH THE HAT, I ASKED HER, AND SHE FOUND YOU!)
(YOU MEAN THE WOMAN WITH NO FACE?)
(NO, THE ONE WITH THE HAT, SHE'S RIGHT THERE...)
(...SHE WAS RIGHT THERE...)
THE END



AS IT IS MY TURN, HONOR AND DUTY TO DELIVER A MEMORABLE DC NATION,

I would like to approach this task in a peculiar manner. As you all know, we have so many exciting projects to discuss that I don't even know where to begin, and the fact is that I don't want to reveal too much! That's why I came up with another interesting path to follow that will make my words harder for you to understand. Thus, I will transform myself into the multilingual African Deity Orunmila for a couple of paragraphs, and will discuss some of these projects in other languages. Yes! Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

Ready?

Vous êtes prêt? Avez-vous un dictionnaire multilingue proche de vous? Très bien! Je commence par écrire en français, la langue la plus belle. Je voudrais vous parlez d'une nuit noire, la plus noire de toutes les nuits, quand des anneaux noirs provoque l'enfer dans l'univers des super-héros. Il y était une fois un super-héro, son nom: l'Homme des Etoiles. Apres la mort de Ted Knight, Starman s'est incamé plusieurs fois. Je suis donc heureuse d'annoncer que l'une de ces incamations sera de retour dans l'univers de DC. Mais cette fois, il y aura quelque chose d'étrange et de terrifiant ! Notre ami se conduira d'une façon bizarre et aura un rendezvous peu agréable avec une vieille amie irlandaise et avec un personnage obscur à la fois. Cette nouvelle histoire de Starman sera écrite par la main magique de **James Robinson**, qui connait parfaitement l'univers de l'Homme des Etoiles.

E con l'italiano, come va la cavate? Meglio di me? Puo'darsi; tuttavia, essendo la mia lingua madre, mi sento in dovere di onorare la patria degli spaghetti e degli imperatori romani e di annoiarvi scrivendo in quello che alla maggior parte di voi potrebbe sembrare Latin gibberish. A proposito di "Notti piu' oscure"... Sono sempre entusiasta all'idea di leggere una storia dall'intreccio solido e originale e penso proprio che questo sia uno di quei fortunati esempi. Si da' il caso, infatti, che una nuova avventura avente come protagonista Catwoman e in qualche modo associata ad una "notte buia," sia in procinto di essere immortalata su carta da **Fabian Nicieza**. Questa volta la nostra felina preferita si trovera' alle prese con un vecchio nemico che ostenta da sempre una passione poco ortodossa per artefatti generalmente usati a scopo protettivo od ornamentale.

How do you like them apples? Shouldn't we play U.N. more often? It's fun! Thank you for your patience! Dzai jian!

Simona

DC NATION

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